

REMARKS

Examiner Interview

Applicants acknowledge with sincere appreciation the courtesy of a telephone interview extended to Applicants' attorney, Justin Liu, on January 6, 2006. During the interview, no exhibit was shown and no demonstration was conducted. Claim 1 and the cited references were discussed. No agreement was reached.

Summary of Claim Status

Claims 1-4, 6-14, 19-23, 25-27, and 29 are pending in the present application after entry of the present amendment. Claims 1-4, 8-14, and 25-27 are rejected for the reasons discussed below. Claims 5-7, 28, and 29 are objected to as depending from a rejected base claim, but indicated as allowable if properly rewritten in independent form. Applicants have canceled Claims 5 and 28, and have incorporated the features of those claims in their respective base claims.

Claims 19-23 are allowed. Applicants thank the Examiner for this acknowledgement of patentable subject matter.

~~Applicants respectfully requests favorable reconsideration of the claims and withdrawal of the pending rejections and objections in view of the present amendment and in light of the following discussion.~~

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 4, 8-10, 25, and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Shimamoto, U.S. Patent No. 6,147,672 ("Shimamoto"). Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse the rejection with respect to all claims, submitting that Shimamoto does not teach or even suggest the features recited in the claims. However, the rejection is believed to be moot in light of the present amendments.

Applicants have amended Claim 1 to include the features of canceled Claim 5, indicated as allowable, and have amended Claim 25 to include the features of canceled Claim 28, also indicated as allowable. Therefore, Applicants believe Claims

1 and 25 are now in form for allowance, and allowance of such claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 4, and 8-10 depend, either directly or indirectly, from Claim 1, and thus include all of the limitations of Claim 1. Claim 27 depends from Claim 25, and thus includes all of the limitations of Claim 25. Applicants believe Claims 1 and 25 are allowable for the reasons set forth above. Therefore, for at least the same reasons, Applicants believe Claims 2, 4, 8-10, and 27 are also allowable, and respectfully requests allowance of such claims.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimamoto in view of Ipek et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20010018334 ("Ipek"). Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse the rejection with respect to all claims, submitting that Shimamoto and Ipek, alone or in any combination, do not teach or even suggest the features recited in the claims. However, the rejection is believed to be moot in light of the present amendments to Claims 1 and 25.

Claim 3 depends from Claim 1, and thus includes all of the limitations of Claim 1. Claim 26 depends from Claim 25, and thus includes all of the limitations of Claim 25. Applicants believe Claims 1 and 25 are allowable for the reasons set forth above. Therefore, for at least the same reasons, Applicants believe Claims 3 and 26 are also allowable, and respectfully requests allowance of Claims 3 and 26.

Objections

Claims 5-7, 28, and 29 are objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim, but indicated as otherwise allowable. Applicants thank the Examiner for this acknowledgement of allowable subject matter.

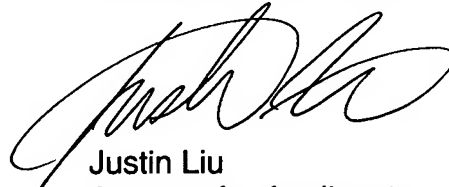
Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 25 to correspond to former Claims 5 and 28, respectively, and have canceled Claims 5 and 28. Applicants have also made minor amendments in Claims 6, 7, and 29 to maintain claim dependencies. Applicants believe Claims 6, 7 and 29, which depend from allowable Claims 1 and 25, are now in form for allowance, and allowance of such claims is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicants acknowledge an unusually thorough and helpful analysis of all pending claims by the Examiner.

No new matter has been introduced by any of the above amendments. In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants believe that Claims 1-4, 6-14, 19-23, 25-27, and 29 are in condition for allowance, and allowance of the application is therefore requested. If action other than allowance is contemplated by the Examiner, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone Applicants' attorney, Justin Liu, at 408-879-4641.

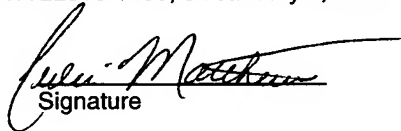
Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on January 6, 2006.

Julie Matthews
Name


Signature